THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (c) SAIL is currently considering introduction of a premature retirement scheme for non-executives, as a scheme for premature retirement of executives is already in existence in SAIL.

(b) The total number of workers (non-executive) who have been granted VRS in SAIL in the last 10 years is as follows:

VR Scheme	No. of workers
VRS 2001	5,321
VRS 1999	11,606
VRS 1998	5,317
VRS (1.7.91-31.3.93)	3,910

(The VR Scheme was not in operation in the year 2000)

(d) The steel plants were set up around forty years back (in the late 50s and early 60s). Therefore, data on premature retirement since inception is not available.

Increasing steel production

†1177. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of steel produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that steel production has declined in comparision to its requirement;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken to increase steel production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The details of production of finished

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

steel in the country during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and till June 2002 are indicated below:—

(In million tonnes)

Year/Period	Production
1999-2000	27.17
2000-2001	29.27
2001-2002	30.61
April-June 2002*	7.68

*Provisional

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Government have taken several steps to increase the production of steel, such as modernization and expansion of public sector steel plants, adoption of various policy measures to incourage creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. Indian steel producers have also been taking continuous steps to meet the domestic requirements of steel including upgradation of technology, improvement in productivity and yields, improvement in quality of products and adoption of the product-mix to suit the requirements of the consumers.

Olympics in India

1178. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that india is planning to make a bid for the 2012 Olympics in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government are planning to push the case before the IOA, to get a nod for hosting 2012 Olympics in India?